



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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LOOKING AHEAD TO THE GENERAL ELECTION
April 25-29, 2008

The Democrats would appear to have a large edge leading into the fall elections: voters view their party as better than the Republican Party on many important issues and overall. But once the candidates' names are mentioned, the general election looks like a much closer race. Barack Obama is in a tie with John McCain in this poll, while Hillary Clinton leads McCain by just five points.

The closeness of the race between Obama and McCain represents a change since four weeks ago, when Obama held a five point lead. Since then, Obama has lost support among women, particularly white women. Clinton, meanwhile, has maintained her 5-point edge over McCain.

NOVEMBER MATCHUPS

Barack Obama's problems over the last few weeks, including his Pennsylvania primary loss and the continuing media coverage of his former pastor Rev. Jeremiah Wright, may have contributed to his weaker position compared to four weeks ago. When asked who they would vote for if the November election were held today, 45% of registered voters choose Obama, and 45% choose McCain.

IF THE CANDIDATES WERE..., WHO WOULD YOU VOTE FOR?

(Among registered voters)
Table with 3 columns: Candidate, Now, 4/3/08. Rows: Obama (45%, 47%), McCain (45, 42), Undecided/DK (6, 7)

This poll was conducted as the Wright controversy re-emerged.

McCain now holds a three point lead over Obama among women; last month, women gave Obama a 13 point margin. Obama's changed position is particularly striking among white women. Among these voters, Obama now runs behind McCain by a full seventeen points, compared to four points four weeks ago.

IF THE CANDIDATES WERE..., WHO WOULD YOU VOTE FOR?

(Among registered voters)
Table with 5 columns: Candidate, All Women Now, All Women 4/3/08, White Women Now, White Women 4/3/08. Rows: Obama (44%, 51%, 38%, 43%), McCain (47, 38, 55, 47), Undecided/DK (6, 7, 4, 8)

As they were last month, independents are divided between McCain and Obama.

Clinton's five-point advantage against McCain comes from women and Democrats. 83% of Democrats support her against McCain; 74% favor Obama in the fall contest. Women also support Clinton over McCain, 53% to 40%.

IF THE CANDIDATES WERE..., WHO WOULD YOU VOTE FOR?

(Among registered voters)

	Now	4/3/2008
Clinton	48%	48%
McCain	43	43
Undecided/DK	5	5

Since early April, voters have shifted in their overall assessment of Obama -- their opinions have become more negative. Four weeks ago Obama was viewed more favorably than unfavorably; now, negative views of him have risen ten points, from 24% to 34%.

OPINIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

(Among registered voters)

	NOW		4/3/08	
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Favorable	Unfavorable
Obama	39%	34	43%	24
Clinton	36%	42	38%	39
McCain	33%	34	35%	29

Unfavorable views of Obama have risen across many demographic groups - men and women, whites, independents and Democrats.

Opinions of both Clinton and McCain are also slightly more negative now than they were a few weeks ago, suggesting the campaign may be taking a toll on all the candidates.

THE CANDIDATES: STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

John McCain is viewed as the best of the three candidates on handling an international crisis (something Obama does poorly on), and on being patriotic. Compared to the two Democratic candidates, he is the least likely of the three candidates to be seen as having the right temperament for the job of president. However, he is seen as sharing Americans' values and rates well on honesty.

Barack Obama is more likely than Clinton to be seen as sharing the values of most Americans. Along with Clinton, he is viewed as caring about people. He is seen as honest and having the right temperament for the job of president. Three quarters of voters say Obama is patriotic, but compared to the other candidates, he fares least well on this measure.

Hillary Clinton is seen as caring and patriotic, and does better than Obama (but not McCain) on handling an international crisis. Two thirds of voters say Clinton is as honest as anyone else in public life, but compared to the other candidates, she does worst on this measure. She is also more apt than the other candidates to be seen as beholden to special interests.

CANDIDATE QUALITIES

(Among registered voters)

	Clinton	Obama	McCain
Shares Americans' values	58%	64%	67%
Confidence in handling international crisis	46%	39%	53%
Is patriotic	87%	75%	92%
Cares about needs and problems of people like you	70%	72%	64%
Special interests have a lot of influence on him/her	46%	31%	30%
Has the same or more honesty than most people in public life	65%	78%	78%
Has the right temperament	58%	64%	55%

OPINION OF THE PARTIES

The close horserace results in this poll are at odds with other questions that give Democrats a large advantage.

Americans nationwide have a far more favorable opinion of the Democratic Party than of the Republican Party. 52% of Americans view the Democratic Party favorably; only 33% view the Republican Party favorably.

OPINION OF THE PARTIES

	Democratic Party	Republican Party
Favorable	52%	33%
Not Favorable	41	58

More Americans think the Democratic Party comes closer to sharing their moral values, and more think the Democratic Party is better equipped to improve health care, ensure a strong economy, and make the right decisions about the war in Iraq.

WHICH PARTY IS BETTER AT..

	Democratic	Republican
Improving health care	63%	19
Ensure a strong economy	56%	28
Sharing your moral values	50%	34
Dealing with the Iraq War	50%	34
Dealing with immigration	42%	38
Keeping military strong	27%	60

Democrats hold only a slight edge on handling immigration. But Republicans have a two to one advantage on one critical issue: most think the Republicans would do a better job at making sure U.S. military defenses are strong.

By more than a twenty point margin, voters expect a Democrat to win in November rather than a Republican.

EXPECT TO WIN IN NOVEMBER?

(Among registered voters)

	Now	3/2008
Democrat	56%	61%
Republican	32	26

These expectations may help Congressional Democrats in November. Voters now pick a Democrat over a Republican when asked who they would vote for to represent their Congressional district.

2008 CONGRESSIONAL VOTE

(Among registered voters)

	Now	10/2006
Democrat	50%	52%
Republican	32	34

Still, 64% of Americans describe the Democratic Party as divided, not united. Fewer, 46%, say that about the Republicans.

THE CANDIDATES' SPOUSES

Most voters possess an opinion of former President Bill Clinton; they have known him for at least 16 years. 50% have a favorable view of Bill Clinton, and 36% are unfavorable, about the same assessments voters gave him in mid-2007. This January, only 46% of voters were favorable.

Few know enough about either Michelle Obama or Cindy McCain to have an opinion. Among those who do, opinions of Michelle Obama are divided. Views of Cindy McCain are more positive than negative.

OPINIONS OF THE CANDIDATES' SPOUSES

(Among all registered voters)

	Favorable	Not Favorable	Undecided/ Haven't heard
Bill Clinton	50%	36	13
Michelle Obama	22%	19	58
Cindy McCain	17%	7	75

Among Democratic primary voters, favorable views of Bill Clinton and Michelle Obama outnumber unfavorable views by a wide margin.

THE 2008 CAMPAIGN AND THE ECONOMY

More than three in four Americans believe the economy overall is in bad shape - the same as a month ago. A year ago a majority of Americans said the economy was at least somewhat good.

CONDITION OF THE ECONOMY

	Now	4/3/2008	1/2008	4/2007
Good	22%	21%	38%	59%
Bad	77	78	61	39

Seven in 10 Americans think economy is getting worse.

Americans personally are feeling an economic pinch. The number of adults who can't quite pay their bills has risen 10 points since February to nearly one in four Americans. Half of all Americans are making just enough to keep up with their bills and obligations. And now only 27% say they are making enough to save or buy extras - an 11-point drop in two months.

IS YOUR INCOME...?

	Now	2/2008	4/2007
Enough to buy extras	27%	38%	41%
Just enough to pay bills	48	46	48
Not enough to pay bills	23	13	11

So it is not surprising the economy and jobs is what voters want to hear the candidates discuss during the campaign. 43% of voters say they want to hear the economy addressed, up 14 points from March. It ranks first with Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.

ISSUE YOU MOST WANT THE CANDIDATES TO TALK ABOUT

(Among registered voters)

	Now	3/2008
Economy and jobs	43%	29%
War in Iraq	17	20
Health care/Medicare/Medicaid	9	12
Gas prices	7	4

More voters who pick the economy think Hillary Clinton is talking about that issue than say either Barack Obama or John McCain is. But

one in three voters says that none of the candidates are talking about this issue.

WHICH CANDIDATE IS TALKING ABOUT THE ECONOMY THE MOST?

(Among registered voters who want to hear about the economy)

None are	30%
Hillary Clinton	25
Barack Obama	13
John McCain	7
Combination (vol.)	15

Americans are clearly dissatisfied with the way the current president is handling this issue as well. Only 21% of Americans approve of the job President Bush is doing handling the economy, while 74% disapprove - the highest number of his presidency.

The President's overall job approval is at 28% - the same as a month ago. Congress's job approval rating is even lower at 21%, and its disapproval rating of 68% is the highest it has been in 12 years.

THE 2008 CAMPAIGN AND THE WAR IN IRAQ

The war in Iraq is the number-two issue that voters want to hear the candidates for president talk about. 57% of Americans think the U.S. should never have gotten involved in the first place.

Nearly two in three voters want the next president to end the war in Iraq in a year or two no matter what happens on the ground there, and more than three in four voters think the next president should be flexible about when to withdraw U.S. troops, rather than stay in Iraq until the U.S. succeeds.

WHAT SHOULD THE NEXT PRESIDENT DO ABOUT IRAQ?

(Among registered voters)

End the war in a year or two	62%
Continue fighting	34
Be flexible about when to withdraw	77%
Commit to success in Iraq	19

Most Republicans think the U.S. was right to invade Iraq, and 40% say that the next president should commit to staying in Iraq until the U.S. succeeds there.

REPUBLICANS, McCAIN AND PRESIDENT BUSH

Most Republicans have rallied around their presumptive nominee, John McCain. 62% of voters who call themselves Republicans now have a favorable opinion of McCain, and more than eight in ten say they will vote for him in November over either Obama or Clinton.

But 44% of those who voted (or still intend to vote) in a Republican primary would like to see McCain shift to policies that are more conservative than those of President Bush. However, a plurality expects that if elected president, McCain would shift to policies that are less conservative.

IF MCCAIN ELECTED PRESIDENT, SHOULD HE:

(Among Republican primary voters)

	Would like McCain to do:	Expect McCain to do:
Continue Bush policies	28%	29%
More conservative policies	44	25
Less conservative policies	19	39

Among conservative Republicans, half would like McCain to enact more conservative policies than those of the current president, and 39% fear that he will enact less conservative policies. Nevertheless, even conservative Republicans seem to be rallying around McCain. Like Republicans overall, 62% have a favorable opinion of him and more than eight in 10 would vote for him over either Obama or Clinton.

THE NEWS MEDIA

Voters continue to think the news media has been hardest on Hillary Clinton - something they have said for months. 34% think the media has been harder on her than on the other presidential candidates, and just 8% think it has been easier. Fewer say the media has been harder on Obama, but that number has increased since last month. 22% now think the media has been harder on him, up from 15% last month. 24% say the media has been easier on him than other candidates.

John McCain is perceived as having the easiest time of the three candidates. Just 8% think he has been treated more harshly than the other presidential candidates, while 28% think he has had it easier.

NEWS MEDIA TREATMENT OF ... HAS BEEN:

(Among registered voters)

	Clinton	Obama	McCain
Harder	34%	22%	8%
Easier	8	24	28
Same	55	51	59

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1065 adults nationwide, including 956 registered voters, interviewed by telephone April 25-29, 2008. Phone numbers were dialed from RDD samples of both standard land-lines and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher. The error for the sample of registered voters is plus or minus three points.

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q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar08c
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	28	67	5	21	28
Disapprove	65	22	91	70	64
DK/NA	7	11	4	9	8

q2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

Approve	21	52	5	15	21
Disapprove	74	39	94	78	71
DK/NA	5	9	1	7	8

q3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

					Mar08a
Approve	29	66	6	24	30
Disapprove	64	26	90	68	65
DK/NA	7	8	4	8	5

q4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

					Dec07a
Approve	21	23	25	14	21
Disapprove	68	72	63	70	64
DK/NA	11	5	12	16	15

q5 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

					Mar08c
Very good	0	0	0	0	1
Fairly good	22	42	12	17	20
Fairly bad	41	40	38	47	48
Very bad	36	17	50	35	30
DK/NA	1	1	0	1	1

q6 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	4	9	1	4	4
Worse	70	51	80	75	70
Same	24	39	18	20	25
DK/NA	2	1	1	1	1

q7 In general, is your opinion of the Republican party favorable or not favorable?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Dec07a
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	33	76	9	25	33
Not favorable	58	18	86	60	59
DK/NA	9	6	5	15	8

q8 In general, is your opinion of the Democratic party favorable or not favorable?

Favorable	52	16	85	45	48
Not favorable	41	78	11	43	44
DK/NA	7	6	4	12	8

q9 How much attention have you been able to pay to the 2008 presidential campaign -- a lot, some, not much, or no attention so far?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar08c
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	55	61	54	52	60
Some	37	36	37	39	30
Not much	6	3	7	7	6
None at all	2	0	2	2	4
DK/NA	0	0	0	0	0

q10-12 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q13 Is your opinion of Hillary Clinton favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Hillary Clinton yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	36	13	59	30	38
Not favorable	42	67	19	45	39
Undecided	15	14	13	19	18
Haven't heard enough	1	1	1	2	4
Refused	6	5	8	4	1

q14 Is your opinion of Barack Obama favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Barack Obama yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	39	21	53	39	43
Not favorable	34	50	24	31	24
Undecided	21	21	17	25	25
Haven't heard enough	5	7	5	5	8
Refused	1	1	1	0	0

q15 Is your opinion of John McCain favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about John McCain yet to have an opinion?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar08c
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	33	62	13	31	35
Not favorable	34	11	55	30	29
Undecided	20	20	16	25	24
Haven't heard enough	12	7	14	14	11
Refused	1	0	2	0	1

q16 If the 2008 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and John McCain, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or John McCain?

Obama	45	11	74	42	47
McCain	45	84	18	42	42
Other (Vol.)	1	2	0	2	1
Won't vote (Vol.)	3	1	3	5	3
Depends (Vol.)	1	0	1	3	2
Don't know/No answer	5	2	4	6	5

q17 If the 2008 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were Hillary Clinton, the Democrat, and John McCain, the Republican, would you vote for Hillary Clinton or John McCain?

Clinton	48	10	83	41	48
McCain	43	84	12	43	43
Other (Vol.)	1	2	0	2	1
Won't vote (Vol.)	3	1	2	7	3
Depends (Vol.)	1	0	1	3	2
Don't know/No answer	4	3	2	4	3

q18 If the 2008 election for U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate in your district?

Republican	32	78	1	27
Democratic	50	8	91	38
Other (Vol.)	0	0	0	1
Won't vote (Vol.)	0	0	0	1
Depends (Vol.)	7	6	4	12
DK/NA	11	8	4	21

q19 Which one issue would you most like to hear the candidates for president discuss during the 2008 presidential campaign?

					Mar08a
Economy/Jobs	43	43	42	45	29
War in Iraq	17	10	25	14	20
Health Care/Medicare/Medicaid	9	5	11	10	12
Gas/Heating Oil Crisis	7	9	7	6	4
Immigration	3	7	1	3	5
Defense / Military	2	3	2	1	1
Other	13	15	7	15	19
DK/NA	6	8	5	6	10

q20 From what you have seen or heard, do you think any of the candidates for president are talking about that issue?
 IF YES, ASK: Which candidate is talking about it more - Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama or John McCain?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Clinton	18	13	24	16
Obama	13	5	18	13
McCain	12	20	7	11
Combination (Vol.)	14	11	16	15
No, none	34	41	30	34
DK/NA	9	10	5	11

q21 Regardless of how you intend to vote for President in 2008, who do expect to finally win the 2008 Presidential election - a Democrat or a Republican?

					Mar07a
Republican	32	60	15	28	26
Democrat	56	29	79	54	61
DK/NA	12	11	6	18	13

q22-34 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q35 From what you know, do you think Hillary Clinton has the right temperament to be a good president, or not?

Yes	58	43	71	58
No	36	53	26	34
DK/NA	6	4	3	8

q36 How much do you think Hillary Clinton cares about the needs and problems of people like yourself - a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

					Mar08c
A lot	31	13	50	25	32
Some	39	38	36	44	36
Not much	17	26	9	17	14
Not at all	11	22	1	12	16
DK/NA	2	1	4	2	2

q37 Do you think Hillary Clinton shares the values most Americans try to live by, or doesn't she?

Yes	58	31	81	54	60
No	37	63	14	40	34
DK/NA	5	6	5	6	6

q38 Do you think Hillary Clinton has more honesty and integrity than most people in public life?
 IF NO, ASK: Do you think Hillary Clinton has less honesty and integrity than most people in public life or about the same honesty and integrity as most people in public life?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **
 *** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Yes, more	28	13	47	19
Less	28	48	12	31
Same	37	33	36	43
DK/NA	7	6	5	7

q39 Would you consider Hillary Clinton very patriotic, somewhat patriotic, or not very patriotic?

Very patriotic	40	22	55	38
Somewhat	47	61	37	46
Not very	11	16	5	13
DK/NA	2	1	3	3

q40 How much influence do you think special interests have on Hillary Clinton - a lot, some, not much or none at all?

A lot	46	56	35	50
Some	40	31	48	39
Not much	6	6	9	3
None at all	2	2	3	2
DK/NA	6	5	5	6

q41 Do you have confidence in Hillary Clinton's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis or are you uneasy about her approach?

					Feb08a
Confidence	46	23	66	44	39
Uneasy	49	75	30	49	56
DK/NA	5	2	4	7	5

q42 From what you know, do you think Barack Obama has the right temperament to be a good president, or not?

Yes	64	54	72	63
No	26	35	21	25
DK/NA	10	11	7	12

q43 How much do you think Barack Obama cares about the needs and problems of people like yourself - a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

					Mar08c
A lot	34	11	46	39	36
Some	38	46	30	40	42
Not much	15	25	11	9	11
Not at all	10	15	9	8	9
DK/NA	3	3	4	4	2

q44 Do you think Barack Obama shares the values most Americans try to live by, or doesn't he?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar08c
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	64	44	76	69	70
No	26	45	15	24	21
DK/NA	10	11	9	7	9

q45 Do you think Barack Obama has more honesty and integrity than most people in public life?

IF NO, ASK: Do you think Barack Obama has less honesty and integrity than most people in public life or about the same honesty and integrity as most people in public life?

Yes, more	45	30	56	44
Less	14	24	9	12
Same	33	37	28	36
DK/NA	8	9	7	8

q46 Would you consider Barack Obama very patriotic, somewhat patriotic, or not very patriotic?

Very patriotic	29	14	39	31
Somewhat	46	48	43	47
Not very	22	36	16	18
DK/NA	3	2	2	4

q47 How much influence do you think special interests have on Barack Obama - a lot, some, not much or none at all?

A lot	31	32	30	32
Some	46	47	46	46
Not much	14	12	14	15
None at all	3	4	5	2
DK/NA	6	5	5	5

q48 Do you have confidence in Barack Obama's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis or are you uneasy about his approach?

					Feb08a
Confidence	39	17	54	41	47
Uneasy	55	80	40	51	47
DK/NA	6	3	6	8	6

q49 From what you know, do you think John McCain has the right temperament to be a good president, or not?

Yes	55	80	34	59
No	34	11	54	32
DK/NA	11	9	12	9

q50 How much do you think John McCain cares about the needs and problems of people like yourself - a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
A lot	26	45	13	24
Some	38	46	29	41
Not much	17	7	25	17
Not at all	14	1	26	12
DK/NA	5	1	7	6

q51 Do you think John McCain shares the values most Americans try to live by, or doesn't he?

					Mar08c
					%
Yes	67	92	46	69	66
No	26	6	44	22	27
DK/NA	7	2	10	9	7

q52 Do you think John McCain has more honesty and integrity than most people in public life?

IF NO, ASK: Do you think John McCain has less honesty and integrity than most people in public life or about the same honesty and integrity as most people in public life?

Yes, more	47	65	33	47
Less	12	3	21	9
Same	31	24	32	37
DK/NA	10	8	14	7

q53 Would you consider John McCain very patriotic, somewhat patriotic, or not very patriotic?

Very patriotic	70	90	54	72
Somewhat	22	7	32	22
Not very	5	1	9	3
DK/NA	3	2	5	3

q54 How much influence do you think special interests have on John McCain - a lot, some, not much or none at all?

A lot	30	21	33	33
Some	45	54	41	43
Not much	10	15	6	9
None at all	6	2	11	5
DK/NA	9	8	9	10

q55 Do you have confidence in John McCain's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confidence	53	85	27	55
Uneasy	43	13	67	41
DK/NA	4	2	6	4

q56 Thinking about the current system of presidential primaries and caucuses, do you think this method of nominating presidential candidates has generally - not just this year - produced the best candidates for president, or not?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **					
*** Party ID ***					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb04b
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, best candidates	36	36	40	30	44
Not best	57	56	54	62	46
DK/NA	7	8	6	8	10

q57 Thinking about your vote for president, how important is it that a candidate attends religious services regularly - is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

Very	34	45	34	23
Somewhat	30	33	27	30
Not very	18	13	19	22
Not at all	17	8	19	24
DK/NA	1	1	1	1

q58-60 BLANK

q61 Is your opinion of Bill Clinton favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Bill Clinton yet to have an opinion?

					Jan08e
Favorable	50	18	75	48	46
Not favorable	36	71	10	37	39
Undecided	11	9	10	13	12
Haven't heard enough	2	0	3	1	2
Refused	1	2	2	1	1

q62 Is your opinion of Michelle Obama favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Michelle Obama yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	22	8	30	23
Not favorable	19	32	10	18
Undecided	12	12	9	16
Haven't heard enough	46	45	50	42
Refused	1	3	1	1

q63 Is your opinion of Cindy McCain favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Cindy McCain yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	17	33	6	17
Not favorable	7	2	12	4
Undecided	14	9	12	20
Haven't heard enough	61	54	68	59
Refused	1	2	2	0

q64 Compared to the way the news media have treated other candidates, have the news media been harder on Hillary Clinton, easier on Hillary Clinton, or have they treated her the same as other candidates?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar08a
	%	%	%	%	%
Harder	34	23	44	32	31
Easier	8	11	6	8	13
Same	55	64	48	57	53
DK/NA	3	2	2	3	3

q65 Compared to the way the news media have treated other candidates, have the news media been harder on Barack Obama, easier on Barack Obama, or have they treated him the same as other candidates?

Harder	22	12	32	20	15
Easier	24	30	19	25	28
Same	51	57	47	52	54
DK/NA	3	1	2	3	3

*Not in Roper

q66 Compared to the way the news media have treated other candidates, have the news media been harder on John McCain, easier on John McCain, or have they treated him the same as other candidates?

Harder	8	14	5	7	14
Easier	28	17	36	29	22
Same	59	66	53	59	60
DK/NA	5	3	6	5	4

*Not in Roper

q67 Regardless of how you intend to vote, what would you prefer the next President do about the war in Iraq -- would you prefer the next President try to end the Iraq war within the next year or two, no matter what, or continue to fight the Iraq war as long as they felt it was necessary?

End war	62	26	89	63
Continue fighting	34	68	10	31
DK/NA	4	6	1	6

q68 Which is more important to you in a presidential candidate - someone who commits to staying in Iraq until the U.S. succeeds, or someone who is flexible about when to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq?

Commits to winning	19	40	10	11
Flexible	77	57	88	83
DK/NA	4	3	2	6

q69 If he is elected president, would you rather see John McCain generally continue George W. Bush's policies, change to more conservative policies, or change to less conservative policies?

** REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS **

	%
Continue Bush policies	28
Change to more conservative	44
Change to less conservative	19
DK/NA	9

q70 What do you think John McCain WILL do if he is elected President: do you think he will generally continue George W. Bush's policies, change to more conservative policies, or change to less conservative policies?

Continue Bush policies	29
Change to more conservative	25
Change to less conservative	39
DK/NA	7

q71 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party comes closer to sharing your moral values?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

	Total	*** Party ID ***			Mar07a
		Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Republican	34	85	4	27	41
Democratic	50	9	84	46	46
Both (vol.)	1	1	1	1	2
Neither (vol.)	7	3	5	13	4
DK/NA	8	2	6	13	7

q72 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to improve the health care system?

					Feb07b
Republican party	19	48	2	15	19
Democratic party	63	32	91	57	62
Both (Vol.)	1	1	0	2	1
Neither (Vol.)	9	10	4	13	8
DK/NA	8	9	3	13	10

q73 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to make the right decisions when it comes to dealing with immigration issues?

					May07a
Republican party	38	72	14	37	32
Democratic party	42	12	73	33	44
Both (Vol.)	2	2	3	2	1
Neither (Vol.)	6	6	2	11	7
DK/NA	12	8	8	17	16

q74 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to make sure U.S. military defenses are strong?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Republican party	60	92	40	55	55
Democratic party	27	3	46	27	29
Both (Vol.)	6	2	8	6	7
Neither (Vol.)	2	0	1	3	2
DK/NA	5	3	5	9	7

q75 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party is more likely to make the right decisions about the war in Iraq?

					Dec07a
Republican party	34	79	5	29	30
Democratic party	50	11	83	46	45
Both (Vol.)	3	4	5	2	2
Neither (Vol.)	4	2	2	8	9
DK/NA	9	4	5	15	14

q76 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party is more likely to ensure a strong economy?

Republican party	28	67	4	24	31
Democratic party	56	18	90	51	49
Both (Vol.)	2	2	1	1	2
Neither (Vol.)	5	4	1	10	6
DK/NA	9	9	4	14	12

q77 Would you describe the Republican party today as united or divided?

United	47	60	39	45
Divided	46	35	55	47
DK/NA	7	5	6	8

q78 Would you describe the Democratic party today as united or divided?

United	31	14	46	28
Divided	64	82	51	64
DK/NA	5	4	3	8

q79 Looking back, do you think the United States did the right thing in taking military action against Iraq, or should the US have stayed out?

					Mar08c
Right thing	37	68	22	30	34
Stayed out	57	26	76	61	62
Don't know/No answer	6	6	2	9	4

q80 How would you say things are going for the U.S. in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq? Would you say things are going very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **					
*** Party ID ***					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar08a
	%	%	%	%	%
Very well	5	12	0	4	4
Somewhat well	35	60	21	31	39
Somewhat badly	31	20	39	32	30
Very badly	26	6	37	30	24
Don't know/No answer	3	2	3	3	3

q81-83 BLANK, Q84-Q89 RELEASED SEPARATELY, Q90-Q91 BLANK

q92 Think about your household income, would you say that it is more than enough so that you can save money or buy some extras, just enough to meet your bills and obligations, or is it not enough to meet your bills and obligations?

					Feb08a
Can save and buy extras	27	37	20	26	38
Just enough to pay bills	48	51	53	42	46
Not enough to pay bills	23	11	26	30	13
DK/NA	2	1	1	2	3

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1065	
Total Republicans	306	291
Total Democrats	395	393
Total Independents	364	381
Registered Voters	956	
Reg. Voters - Republicans	285	260
Reg. Voters - Democrats	366	346
Reg. Voters - Independents	305	285